

University of Wisconsin-River Falls

Advocates for Choice

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April 8, 2004

Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Re: Approve Over-the-Counter Status for Emergency Contraception

Dear Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Thompson:

We support emergency contraception over-the-counter without restrictions. Please listen to your own expert advisory panel and do not make this a political decision or bow to political pressure -- this is a medical decision.

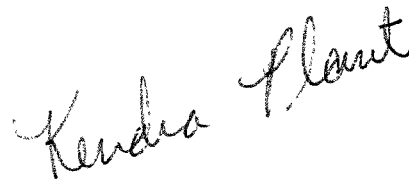
The current prescription requirement harms women by imposing unnecessary burdens to access emergency contraception, which is most effective when taken within 24 hours of unprotected intercourse, birth control failure, or sexual assault. Emergency contraceptive pills are safe and effective and have the potential to cut in half the number of unintended pregnancies in the US and prevent as many as 800,000 abortions each year. Emergency contraceptive pills meet all the FDA's requirements for over-the-counter use.

Do the right thing; make emergency contraception available over the counter without restrictions!

Sincerely,



Sam Hanson



Advocates for Choice Members

OIP 0075

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